

August 14, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Lara Edwards with prayer and salute to the flag. In attendance: Edwards, Rudd, Lewis, Nichols, and Roddenberry.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as presented by the Clerk. Motion by Roddenberry, second by Rudd, passed 5/0.

Clerk Ashley Schilling reported that Deputy Clerk, Page Evans, has completed the requirements to obtain CMC designation, and given prior approval from the Council, a 5% raise will be in effect this month.

Clerk Schilling also obtained continuing education hours on Governmental Accounting and Auditing which will allow her to prepare the financial statements for the audit each year. Council approved Ms. Schilling's attendance in a prior meeting and with the continuing education, the City will avoid the financial preparation finding on future audits. With earning the continuing education hours, the Clerk will need to attend the school yearly. After much discussion regarding education pay incentive, a motion was made by Nichols to amend the Clerk's job description to make continuing education in Governmental Accounting and Auditing a condition of employment or be able to attain it within 6 months of hire, second by Roddenberry, passed 5/0.

A motion was made by Lewis to adjust City Clerk Ashley Schilling's salary by 5% for the completion of the continuing education in Governmental Accounting and Auditing, second by Rudd, passed 5/0.

Stella Beeler was present and spoke to the Council regarding Dollar General coming to Sopchoppy. She is against it coming, however, it is her understanding the property has already been purchased, so there is nothing that can be done. She presented the Council with a drawing from Dollar General's website, depicting a building option that would be more appealing.

Dwayne McClain, local business owner, also inquired about Dollar General. Public Works Director, Leonard Tartt, informed Mr. McClain he had been in the Building Department and they have not been contacted by the company and according to the Property Appraiser website, the land has not been purchased at this time.

Leonard Tartt reported to the Council pricing for speed humps in the downtown area at a cost of \$2,314.20 each, delivered, but not installed. Mr. Tartt received letters from 4 residents indicating they are against the calming devices on Rose Street. Councilmember Lewis inquired if there are other options, agreeing there is an issue and something needs to be done. Councilmember Roddenberry indicated he is against the speed humps, and would like a traffic study performed, finding out how many accidents and tickets have been issued downtown.

Beth McClain told the Council she is downtown daily at her business and has to be careful helping customers to their cars because of vehicles speeding on Rose Street.

The Council requested Leonard Tartt contact Lee Lassiter with the County and the CTST committee and see what the process will be to install the speed humps.

Clerk Schilling presented an Inter-Local Agreement between the City and Wakulla County for Floodplain Management. This is a mandatory requirement of FEMA and as such, a motion was made by Roddenberry to approve the agreement, second by Nichols, passed 5/0.

The financial and adjustment reports were approved by signature of the Council.

Clerk Schilling reported the Depot went in front of the Review Board for the National Historic Registry List and was approved.

Ms. Schilling reminded the Council of the budget workshop Monday, August 21, 6:00 p.m.

Public Works Director, Leonard Tartt, reported on the Highway 319 widening project. The County was forgiven some costs involved by showing it as a monetary hardship. Once the project enters our water service area, we could possibly apply as well.

Mayor, Lara Edwards, inquired about the mulch for the Depot Park playground. The company who was to furnish it is no longer able. She suggested contacting the County to see who they use.

Councilmember Nichols would like a downtown overlay done. This will allow the City greater input on the aesthetics of potential business within the City limits. Attorney Cox is working on the steps the City needs to take to get the overlay.

Councilmember Roddenberry proposed the City become a member of the National League of Cities. After discussion regarding the benefits of joining, the Council authorized Clerk Schilling to apply.

Roddenberry also inquired about decorative lighting for Depot Park and Rose Street. The Council requested the City Clerk contact Duke Energy for pricing and options and bring the findings back at a future meeting.

Councilmember Rudd reported he has been contacted by citizens asking why the playground was installed at Depot Park ahead of the music pavilion. The playground was included in the FRDAP grant awarded for this fiscal year. Mr. Rudd requested more information on future projects for the park.

Rudd inquired again about upgrading staff cell phones to smartphones. Clerk Schilling reported it will be additional \$200/250 a month for a total of 8 smartphones and 1 standard cell phone. The City Council approved the upgrades.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Motion by Rudd, second by Roddenberry.